

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Method~~ A method for improving the long term stability of biodiesel, wherein:

~~1-1~~ (a) crude methyl ester is formed by transesterification of a vegetable or animal fat or oil with methanol,

wherein

~~1-2~~ (b) the crude methyl ester ~~thus~~ formed in step (a) is intensively ~~post-treated~~ inline mixed at temperatures between 25 and 60°C with a strong acid or with a mixture of a strong acid and a complex former, to form an emulsion, and

~~characterized in that~~

~~1-3 a fine emulsion is prepared from the ester and the acid phase;~~

~~1-4~~ (c) the an ester layer separated from the emulsion formed ~~thereby~~ in step (b) is subjected to a thorough water wash and is subsequently dried.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that,~~ as strong acid hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid or phosphoric acid are employed as a strong acid, and as complex former EDTA or citric acid are employed as a complex former, if present.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the water wash of biodiesel is carried out in a wash column according to the counter current principle or by means of a mechanically intensive mixer.